

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: TQ, UN

SUBJ: COM REPRESENTATIVE ATALIG REQUEST FOR SPECIAL
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL SESSION REGARDING MILITARY USE OF TINIAN

REFS: USUN 2863, 2864

JULY 31 LETTER OF CONGRESSMAN ATALIG CIRCULATED TODAY AS
PETITION IN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL DOCUMENT (T/PET.10/80).
USG REPLY FORWARDED TO TC SECRETARIAT WHICH WILL CIRCULATE
IT BY END OF WEEK. TEXT OF USG REPLY FOLLOWS;

"THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER
TO THE LATTER'S NOTE OF 29 AUGUST 1973 TO WHICH WAS ATTACHED
A PETITION FROM REPRESENTATIVE FELIPE ATALIG OF THE
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 86, PARAGRAPH 4, OF THE RULES
OF PROCEDURE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, THE USG AS
ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY HAS THE HONOR TO MAKE THE
FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE PETITION.

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AS THE UNITED STATES REPORTED DURING THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL'S MEETING LAST MAY, IT IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARIANA ISLANDS. THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT ARE REPRESENTED THROUGH THEIR DULY APPOINTED MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION WHICH INCLUDES TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISLAND OF TINIAN. THE ENTIRE COMMISSION, IN THE WORDS OF ITS CHAIRMAN, IS "....DETERMINED TO REPRESENT AND PROTECT THE INTEREST OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS, INCLUDING THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN, IN THEIR STATUS NEGOTIATIONS." THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMISSION COMMITTED THEMSELVES DURING NEGOTIATIONS LAST MAY TO UNDERTAKE FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISIONS OR AGREEMENTS ARE MADE REGARDING THE USE OF LAND ON TINIAN FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

IT WAS FURTHER AGREED DURING THE MAY SESSION THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD WORK WITH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR PREVENTING THE ALIENATION OF LAND IN THE MARIANAS, INCLUDING LAND ON TINIAN. THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMISSION WERE ALSO TO ESTABLISH A CONSULTATIVE GROUP, INCLUDING REPRESENTATION FROM TINIAN, TO DISCUSS DETAILED PLANS FOR MILITARY AND RELATED LAND USE IN THE MARIANAS AS THEY ARE DEVELOPED AND TO CONSULT DIRECTLY WITH THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THOSE PLANS, INCLUDING RESIDENTS OF TINIAN.

THE UNITED STATES IS ALSO ACTIVELY EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY TRANSFER OF CONTROL OVER MICRO-NESEAN PUBLIC LANDS INCLUDING THOSE PUBLIC LANDS IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS AND THOSE ON TINIAN. THE MARIANAS' POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION HAS SUGGESTED THAT A PUBLIC CORPORATION BE ESTABLISHED TO RECEIVE FULL TITLE TO SUCH LANDS IN THE MARIANAS. THIS CORPORATION WOULD BE UNDER THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS AND WOULD SET UP WHATEVER USE OR FUNCTION IS TO BE MADE IN REFERENCE TO THIS LAND. THE COMMISSION HAS ASKED THAT THE UNITED STATES NOT ALIENATE THIS LAND BEYOND A MONTH-TO-MONTH TENANCY SO AS TO ALLOW NO FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF PUBLIC LAND WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW ENTITY. THIS IS, OF COURSE, PREDICATED UPON THE EARLY UNCLASSIFIED

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TURNOVER OF PUBLIC LANDS IN THE MARIANAS TO THE ENTITY. THE UNITED STATES IS THUS COMMITTED TO A RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS TO LOCAL CONTROL IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS AS WELL AS THE TRUST TERRITORY AS A WHOLE. THE QUESTIONS TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED ARE ONES OF A TECHNICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL NATURE. THESE ARE BEING STUDIED BY UNITED STATES FACTFINDING TEAMS NOW IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE PRIORITY
CONSIDERATION TO STEPS FOR FURTHERING ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE MARIANA ISLANDS, INCLUDING THE
ISLAND OF TINIAN. THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT AND CERTAINLY
WILL NOT UNDERTAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WILL INHIBIT HEALTHY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON TINIAN OR ELSEWHERE IN THE
TRUST TERRITORY. IT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK THROUGH THE MARIANAS
POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION TO INSURE THAT THE LONG-
TERM ECONOMIC POTENTIAL FOR THE MARIANAS AND TINIAN WILL
BE REALIZED."

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